

Biography of Laura Tillman

Laura Tillman is a senior at Columbia High School in Maplewood and has been acting all of her life. She has studied with various local theater groups, and has been a member of the Parnassian Drama Society for the past three years. As a member of the Parnassian, she has played the role of Suzanne in Picasso at the Lapin Agile, and Raphaela in Stand and Deliver. Laura considers her drama teacher at Columbia High School, Stacey Lawrence, to be the most inspirational and influential contributor to her drama career thus far. Laura has participated in the Governor's Awards for Acting for the past three years and is honored to be the recipient of the Honorable Mention for her portrayal of Blanche in A Streetcar Named Desire, the award for third Best Scene for the role of Sherry in Independence, as well as the awards this year for Best Dramatic Pair in which she portrayed as Alice in Closer and Best Scene for a section of For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuff. Laura plans to continue her theater studies, as well as International Studies at Vassar College, which she will begin attending this fall.

David Jimenez

David Jimenez was lured into the world of theater after participating in a few school musicals at Maplewood Middle School. From his debut as the Music Man in 8th grade, David has enjoyed acting because of the way it stirs the mind, body and soul. He has developed his understanding of the craft through his experiences in several productions in High School and through various acting classes that he has taken outside of school. In his sophomore year he lit up the stage as the driven Picasso in *Pablo Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. And junior year he touched audiences with his passionate portrayal of the immigrant teacher Jaime Escalante in *Stand and Deliver*. That year David also began working with the React Theater Troupe, communicating with elementary school children about their problems through work in improvisational theater. During the summer of his junior year, David was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute's summer intensive and has continued to study acting at Lee Strasberg ever since. David recently performed as Demetrius in a rendition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Lee Strasberg and looks forward to his acting class there every Saturday. He has also attended the STANJ acting competition at Rutgers University for three years and recently won 1st place for a dramatic pair in a scene he did with Laura Tillman from the play *Closer*. David Jimenez enjoys the creative processes involved in acting and has particularly enjoyed the way it has brought him closer to the high school community. He plans to continue his studies of acting in college.